If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord
1.
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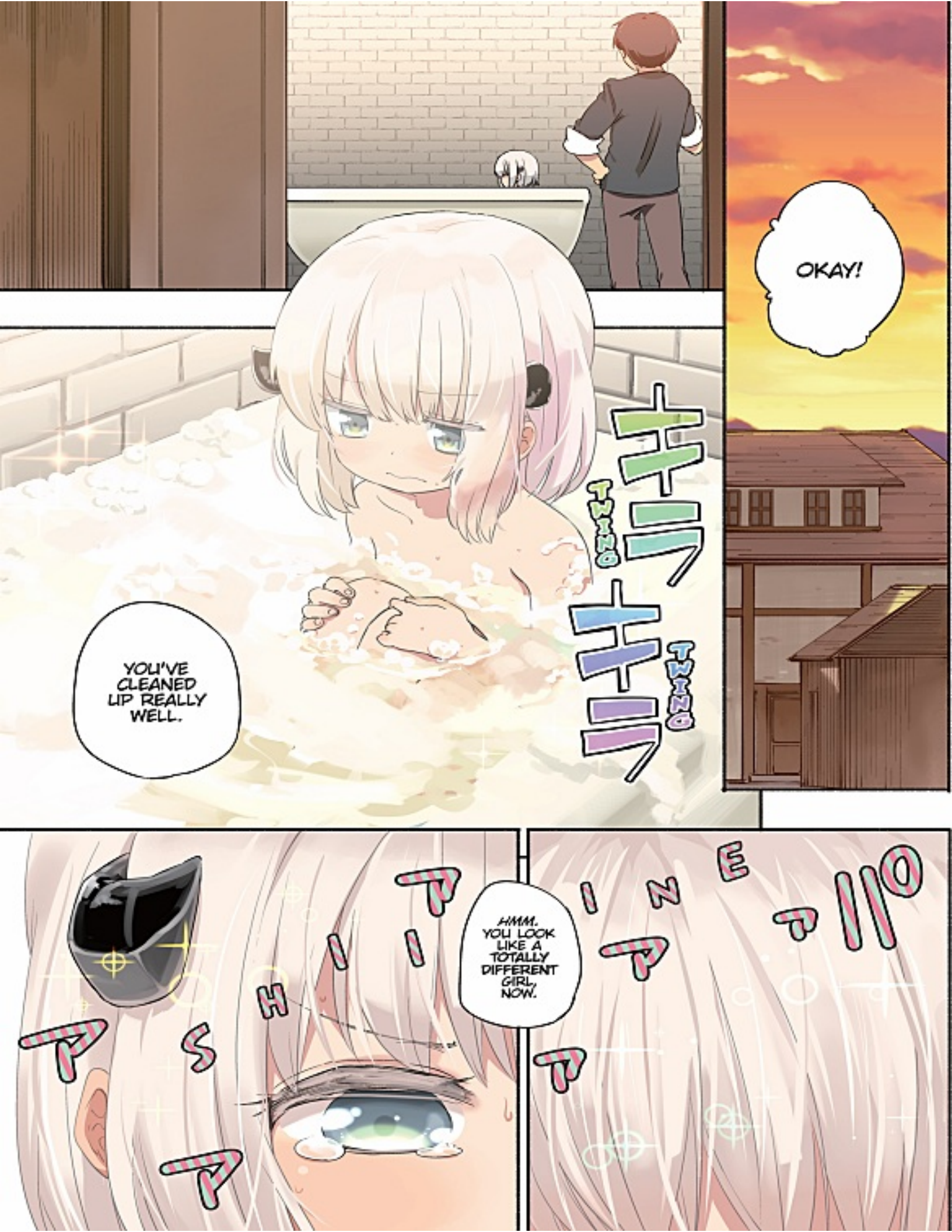
OKAY!
ナデラ
TWING
ナデラ
TWING
YOU'VE CLEANED UP REALLY WELL.
HMM. YOU LOOK LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT GIRL, NOW.
PASHIPASHINE

DALE!
POP
I HEARD FROM KENNETH.
WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE DID YOU GET IN ...?
MADAM OF THE MACKEREL TABBY
—RITA—
HMM...
WHY DOES SHE LOOK SO CRANKY, THOUGH?
ムスッ
HEY!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I'M ONLY EIGHTEEN! WHEN COULD SHE HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED ...?
YOUR ILLEGITIMATE CHILD?
HEY, RITA.
HUH? WHO'S THE KID?
SIGH.
I PICKED HER UP WHILE I WAS EXTERMINATING MAGICAL BEASTS IN THE FOREST...
I KNOW, I KNOW. SO, WHY IS SHE HERE?
I'M TELLING YOU, SHE'S NOT MY KID!
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU AT ALL.
SHE HAS BEAUTIFUL HAIR!

1. Youth Meets a Little Girl

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If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

THE EXTERMINATION REQUEST SEEMED EASY ENOUGH ...

BUT THEN I GOT COVERED IN SLIME, SO I HAD TO WASH MY CLOTHES.

I WAS COOKING SOME FISH WHILE THEY WERE DRYING AND...

KRAKZ

KRAKZ

RUSTLE

AN ANIMAL?

DID THE AROMA OF THE FISH ATTRACT IT?

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

SHWP

A CHILD OF THE DEMON RACE.
ONLY ONE HORN.
BUT THE HORN OF A CHILD?
THEY SAY THAT DEMONS BREAK OFF THE HORNS OF CRIMINALS...
.....
.....
GLANCE
GLANCE
THEY'RE GONNA BURN!
THEY'RE GONNA BURN!
PWAP
PWAP

DO YOU WANT SOME?
<***? **** ***?>
OH, RIGHT. DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.
HMM...
KNCH
RUSTLE
<HERE, COME.>
<THIS, NEED?>
HOW ABOUT IT?

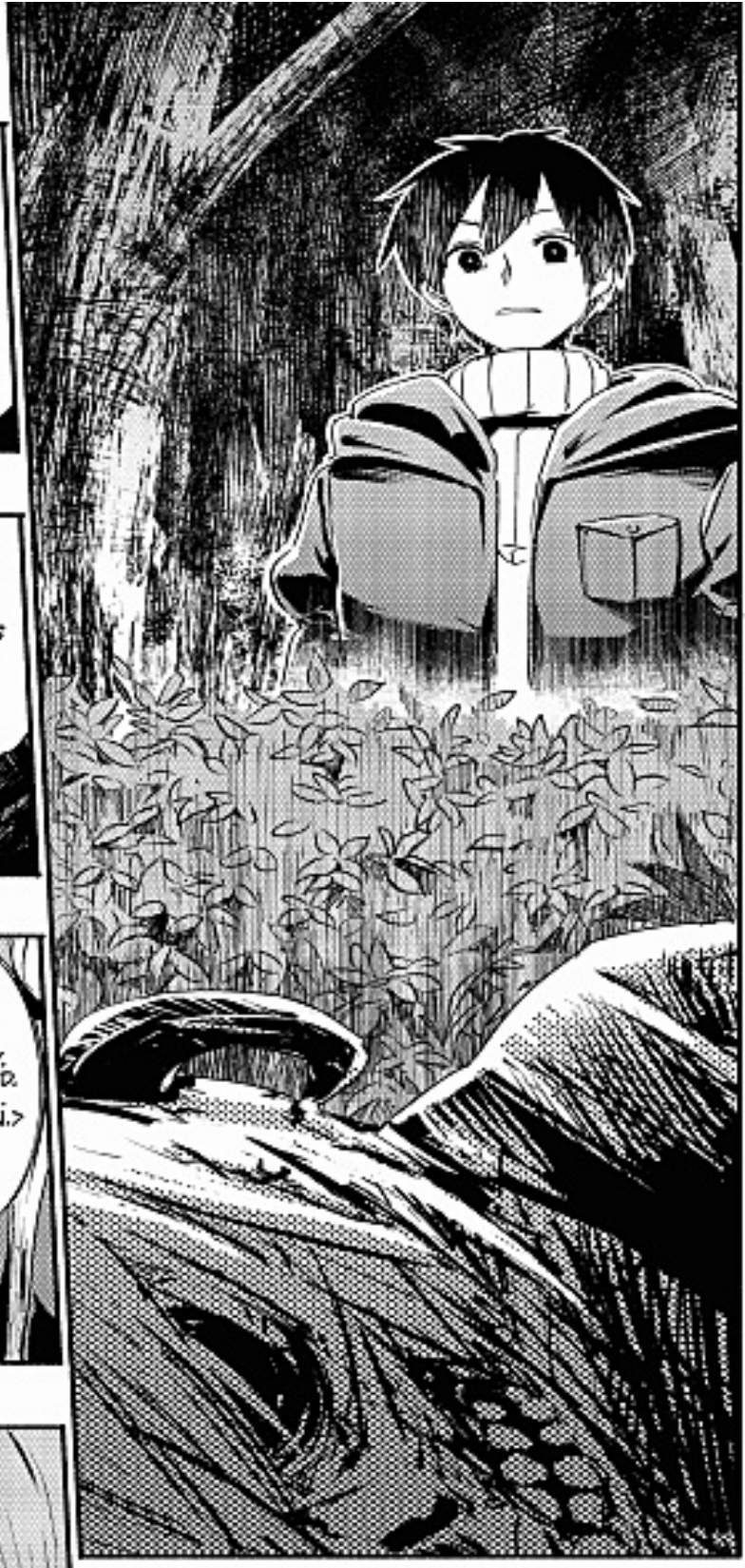
HMM.
MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
DEMONS HAVE VERY LOW BIRTH RATES, SO THEY REALLY VALUE THEIR CHILDREN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D ABANDON ONE, EVEN A CRIMINAL.
<THOU. PRO-TECTOR EXIST CLOSE?>
<******* ******* *******>
<******* ******* *******>
. . . . . .
<TOGETHER, HERE. NO? BEASTS. REJECTION ...?>
IS THERE SOMETHING OVER THERE?
<....>
TOO

<IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE BEASTS COME, ATTRACTED BY MY REMAINS.>
<GET AWAY FROM MY BODY. YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE.>

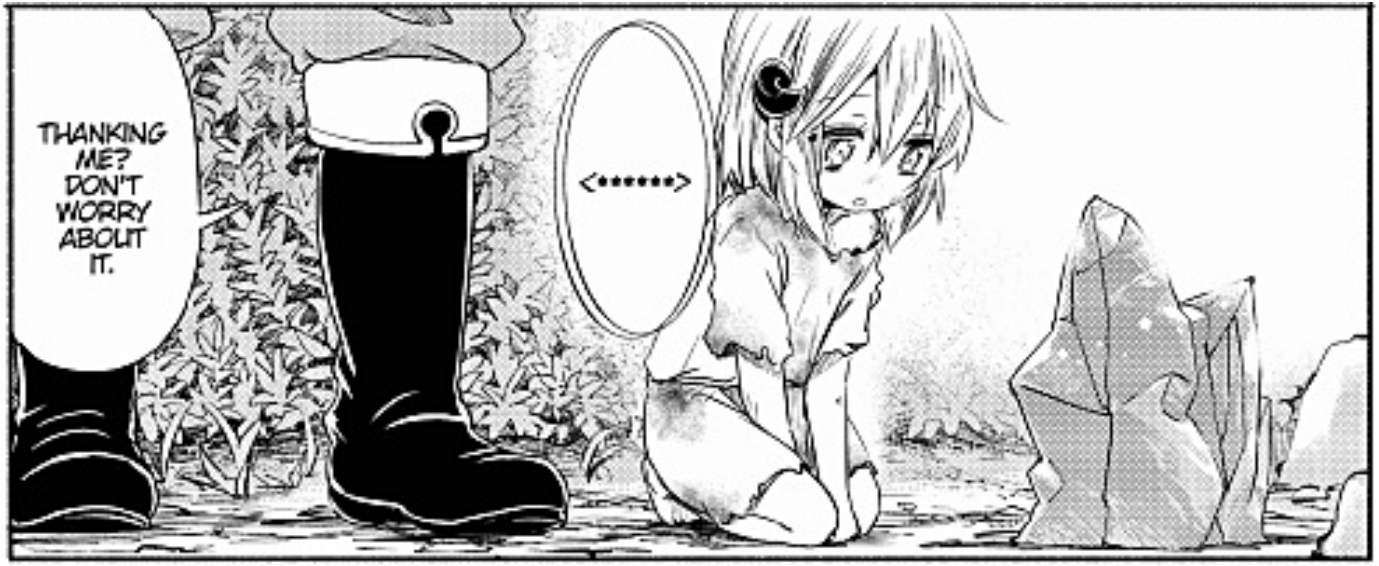
CRAP! I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE AFTER SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT SHE'S SAYING SHE WAS TOLD...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
<BURY. GROUND. DEATH. PERSON.>

NOD



A MAN FROM THE DEMON RACE... HE MUST HAVE BEEN HER FATHER.


THANKING ME? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
<.....>

<MY NAME, "DALE.">

WELL, THIS MUST BE FATE.

LATINA, HUH?

LATINA.

LATINA.
<THOU, TOGETHER WITH ME COME?>
...

SO, YOU ASKED KENNETH IF YOU COULD USE THE TUB.

I SEE...

THAT'S FINE, BUT...

CAN I USE YOUR BATH-TUB?

AND THEN, I BROUGHT HER HOME. IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN LET HER STAY DIRTY, RIGHT?

OH, UM...

<DALE *** ***?>

I SEE...

THE LANGUAGE OF DEMONS IS UNIVERSAL THAT WAY.

THOUGH, ONLY MAGIS USERS CAN USE IT.

YEAH. HUMANS CALL IT THE LANGUAGE OF SPELLS.

HUMAN

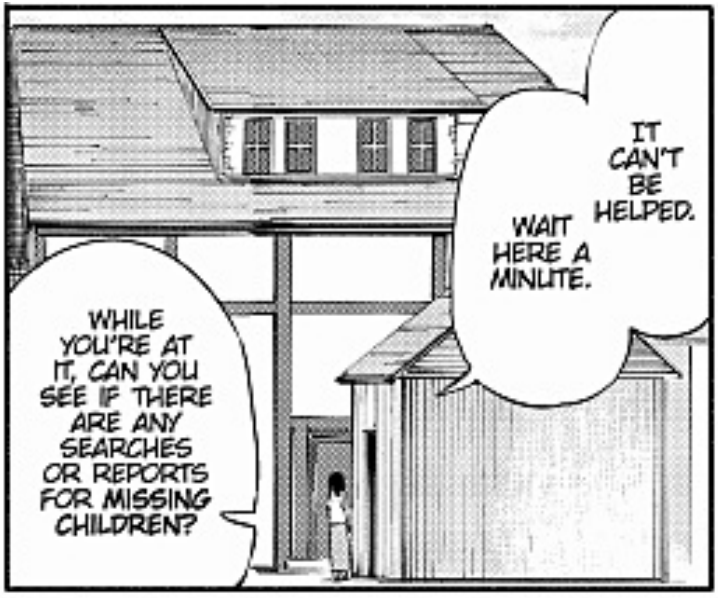
DEMON

<HER NAME, "RITA."> SHE'S THE LAND-LADY OF THE MACKEREL TABBY... IS THERE A WORD FOR LANDLADY?

IS THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE DEMON RACE?

THANKS TO THAT, I CAN RELAY SIMPLE MESSAGES TO HER.

WINK
THAT'S RIGHT!
RITA?
YUP.
DALE.
BOW
LATINA.
RIGHT, LATINA?
?
?
?
IT'S FINE. AS LONG AS SHE GETS MY INTEN-TION.
I TOLD YOU, SHE CAN'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD GIRL FOR DOING A PROPER GREETING.


IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
WAIT HERE A MINUTE.
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CAN YOU SEE IF THERE ARE ANY SEARCHES OR REPORTS FOR MISSING CHILDREN?

OH... I FORGOT.
BY THE WAY, DALE...
DID YOU PREPARE SOME CLOTHES FOR HER?

YES, YES

OH!
I GUESS THAT FISH WASN'T ENOUGH.

GRUMBLE~
FLINCH

Cheese and Milk Risotto
with Asparagus

Vegetable Soup
with a Hint of Salted Bacon

SOME FOR ME, TOO.

CHATTER CHATTER

CLATTER CLATTER

THANKS!

YEAH, EAT UP.

THIS IS YOUR SHARE.

CLENCH

<DALE? ****** ***??

OH, WAS IT TOO HOT?

RITA, CAN YOU GET SOME WATER?

HUFF! HUFF!

?!

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER. I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TURN HER OVER TO THE ORPHANAGE.

NOT ONLY DOES SHE SPEAK A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE, SHE'S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RACE.

I SEARCHED THE GREEN DEITY AKUDARU MESSAGE BOARD, KEEPING HER PHYSICAL APPEARANCE IN MIND...

BUT NO SEARCHES OR REPORTS TURNED UP.

I SEE... THANKS.

RWOO RWOO...

WHAT IS IT?

PA

ぱぁぁぁぁっ

PAAAA

I SEE. DELICIOUS, HUH? THAT'S GREAT!

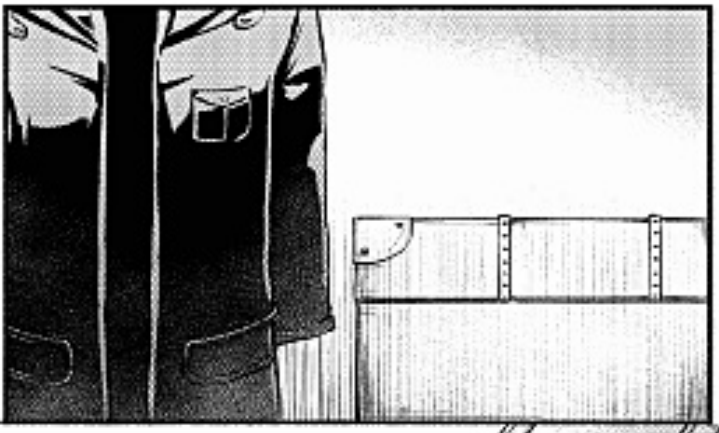
TWINKLE

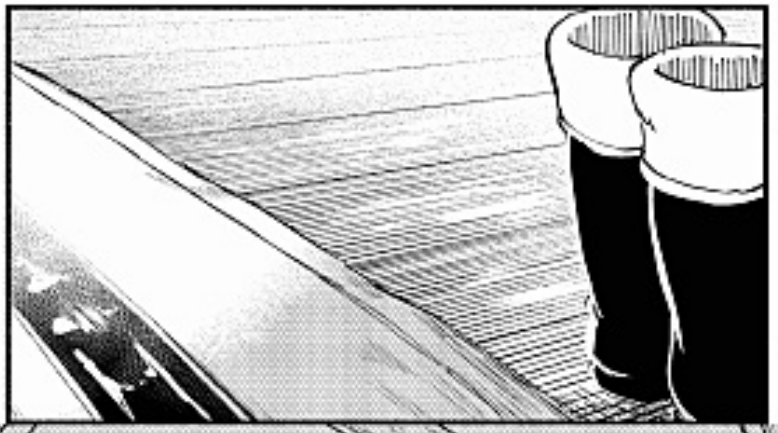
TWINKLE

STRANGE... THE FOOD TASTES BETTER THAN NORMAL!

DOZY
HEY! HEY! YOU'RE GONNA STUFF HER!
INCREASE THE FREQUENCY, NOT THE AMOUNT!
YEAH. YOU SHOULD EAT MORE--HERE, HAVE MY SAUSAGE.
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL END UP MAKING IT--NOT THAT I MIND.
WE'LL MAKE HER SOME SNACKS.
WELL, KENNETH WILL!!
NOD NOD
GOT IT. GOOD NIGHT, LATINA!
I'M GOING TO HEAD TO MY ROOM AND PUT LATINA TO BED.

CLUNK





TOK TOK TOK
LATINA, COME HERE.

OF COURSE, SHE'S TIRED.
NOT ONLY HAS HER ENVIRONMENT SUDDENLY CHANGED, BUT SHE CAN'T COMMUNICATE, AND SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.
I'M GOING TO BE HER GUARDIAN.
FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO WIN HER OVER WITH FOOD... ER, UH--FIRST, I HAVE TO TEACH HER OUR LANGUAGE.
THERE'RE A LOT OF THINGS I NEED TO DO.

THE FIRST WORD LATINA DEMANDED TO LEARN WAS "BATHROOM."

JUST AS I THOUGHT-- LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT.

If It's For My Daughter I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

2. Little Girl Begins a New Life

...?!
ぱちっ
BLINK
OH... RIGHT. I BROUGHT HER BACK WITH ME.
GOOD MORNING, LATINA.
CHIRP CHIRP

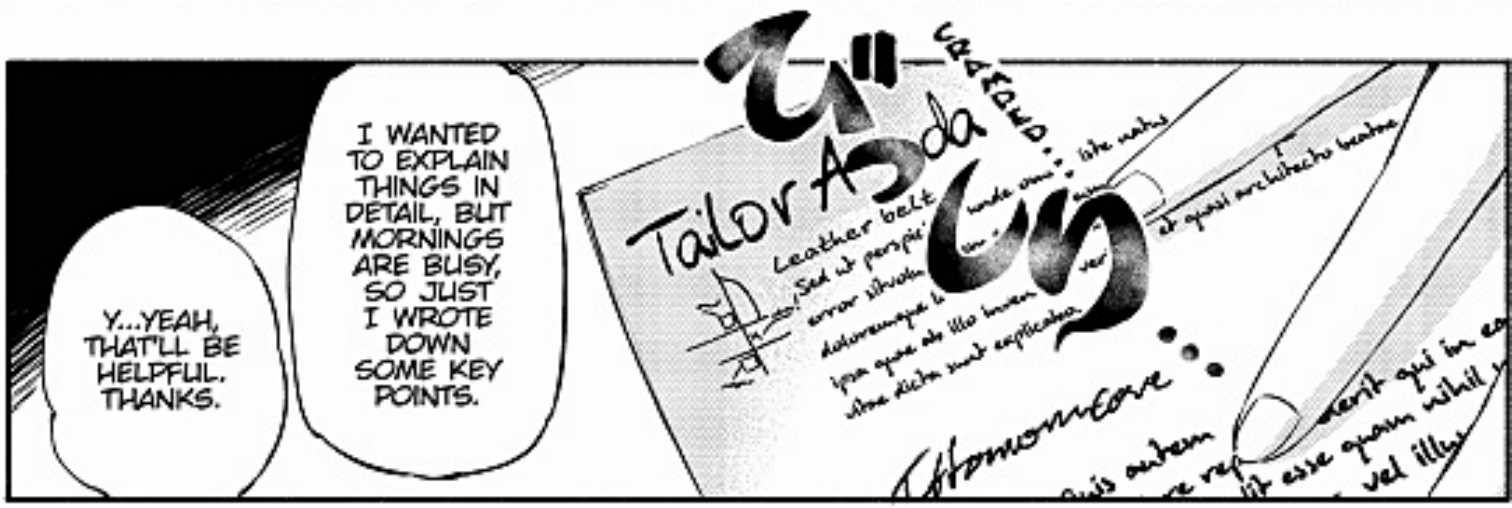
ぱしゃ
SPLASH
ぱしゃ
SPLASH
WIDE WIDE
I'M HUNGRY!
ぷぁっ
FWAH

GOOD MORNING, LATINA.
YEAH.
CAN WE USE THE SIDE TABLE NEXT TO THE KITCHEN?
TA-DAA!
DWAP
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A RIBBON. YOU KNOW, A RIBBON. I'LL TIE HER HAIR WITH IT.
IT'S CUTE AND WE CAN HIDE HER HORNS WITH IT. TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
SWAY
THANKS--THAT'LL HELP.

RIGHT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SHAGGY
CARELESS
UNCOOL MAN
YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE A GIRL'S HAIR ALONE LIKE YOU DO YOURS!
THERE!
OH!
I WAS THINKING OF GOING SHOPPING FOR HER NECES-SITIES.
SHE'S A GIRL, SO SHE'LL NEED A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS!
HEE HEE HEE!

I PRE-PARED A LIST FOR YOU.
AHH!!
DUUN

I CAN'T KEEP CARRYING HER EVERY-WHERE WE GO...
SO I'LL NEED TO STOP BY A SHOE STORE, FIRST...


I WANTED TO EXPLAIN THINGS IN DETAIL, BUT MORNINGS ARE BUSY, SO JUST I WROTE DOWN SOME KEY POINTS.
Y...YEAH, THAT'LL BE HELPFUL. THANKS.

GOOD MORNING. BREAK-FAST IS SERVED...
SO DE-TAILED..

. . . . .
BOW

GOOD MOHRING.

NO WAY!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
GLANCE GLANCE

LATINA IS SO SMART!
GOOD MORNING.
!
GOOD MORNING.
BREAK FAST
EPIPHANY
GOOD MORNING.
SHE FIGURED OUT THAT "GOOD MORNING" IS THE WAY TO GREET OTHERS AT THIS TIME OF DAY?!
JUST FROM OUR CONVER-SATIONS SINCE WAKING UP...

AND SHE'S SO CUTE...
BUT...
KENNETH TOOK LATINA'S FIRST GREETING ...!!
UNFOR-GIVABLE!!
I CAN SEE WHAT HE'S THINKING
NO, YOU WERE RIGHT.
<COR-RECT.>
GASP!
<***? *****?>
SO CHILD-ISH...
RITA!
TELL ME WHICH BOOKSTORES HAVE PICTURE BOOKS THAT TEACH KIDS VOCABU-LARY!
I HAVE TO TEACH HER OUR LANGUAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! BEFORE OTHER PEOPLE STEAL HER OTHER FIRSTS!

DALE. <•••••••?>
WHISPER
WHISPER
LITTLE GIRL CORNER
I NEVER WANT TO GO TO A WOMEN'S TAILOR EVER AGAIN.
S-SO TIRED...
OH, UM...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
ALL RAIGHT?
I'M "ALL RIGHT."
<NO. QUESTION.>

ALL RAIGHT ...
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
MUNCH

Water. I beseech you. Appear before me.
BLUB BLUB
OH--
べっとり
STICKY

LET'S GO.
LATINA REALLY SEEMS LIKE SHE WAS RAISED IN A GOOD FAMILY. I WONDER WHAT I WAS LIKE AT THIS AGE...

"This is a problem, too!" - expression
WE SHOULD GO BUY A HANDKERCHIEF.
DRIP

ポチャッ
PCHWUP

ZZZ...
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALL TUCKERED OUT.
LATE AFTER-NOON, MACKEREL TABBY
IT WAS ONE WHERE YOU HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO THE SITE FOR CON-FIRMATION, RIGHT?
OH YEAH. I NEED TO TELL MY CLIENT THAT I FINISHED YESTERDAY'S QUEST.
NNN
WE DID A LOT OF WALKING.
SMILE
GRRGH...
SIGH...
IT'S TRUE THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THOSE CREATURES AVOID THAT QUEST LIKE THE PLAGUE.
I'M NEVER GOING TO ACCEPT THAT QUEST AGAIN.
AH HA HA!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BRING PARTS OF THEM BACK AS PROOF.
THE FROGS I HAD TO EX-TERMINATE SMELLED TERRIBLE.
DEMON REPELLING NEO FROGS

THE THING IS... I CAN'T REALLY TAKE LATINA BACK TO THE SITE...
JUST LEAVE HER HERE WITH US.
JUST ONE THING... I'LL CHARGE A BABY-SITTING FEE, THOUGH.

THAT'D BE A BIG HELP. BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?

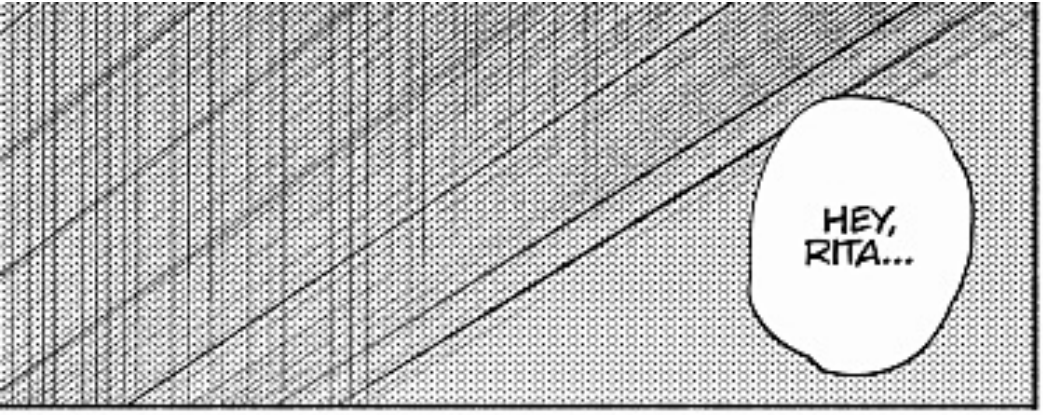
GLANCE
GLANCE

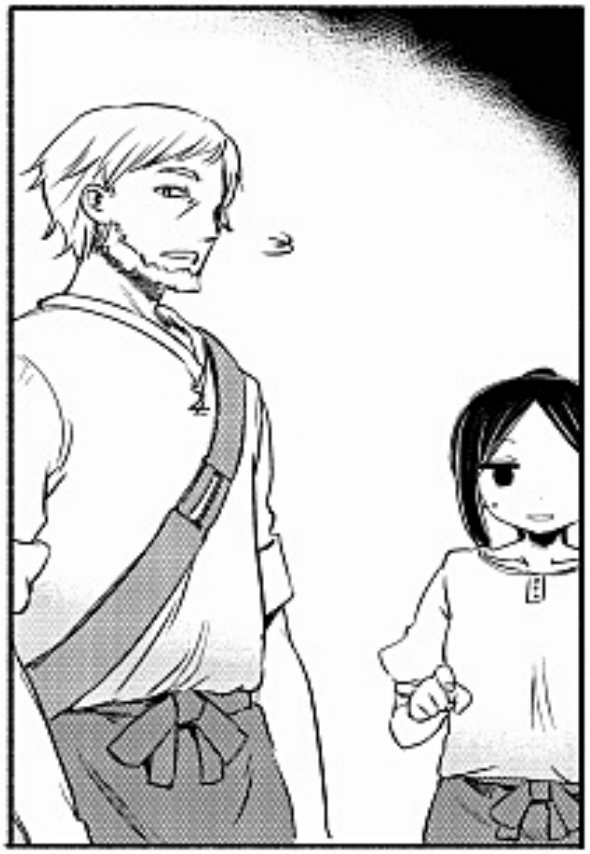
DALE?

TOK TOK TOK...
I'M HERE.

GRIN
CLUTCH
EXPLAIN THINGS TO HER PROPERLY!
I'M SORRY.
IF YOU AREN'T WILLING TO LET HER STAY HOME, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO CALL YOURSELF HER GUARDIAN!
YES.
YOU IDIOT! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HER WHEN YOU GO TO WORK IN THE FUTURE, TOO!
YES.
FLUSTER FLUSTER
EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING THE CLIENT!
LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL PROTECT LATINA...
RITA, I THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE LATINA WITH ME AFTER ALL.
HUH?! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING?
WHY?!
CLENCH

SHAKE SHAKE
ALL RIGHT!
DALE? LATINA ALL RIGHT.
UWAA-ARGH! I'M SO SORRY, LATINAAAA !!!
ギュゥゥゥ SQUEEZE
WHAT? WHAT?
RUB RUB


HEY, RITA...



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY, KENNETH...

I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE OF THEM IS THE ADULT HERE.
THIS IS... SUCH... AGONY...!

THE CONTENT IS SIMPLE, SO I THINK THIS'LL BE GREAT FOR LEARNING YOUR WORDS.

I HOPE WE CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER SOON.

DALE.

<.....?>

<CONVERSATION. WORDS. REMEMBER.>

DOG.
CAT.
HORSE.

DWOG.
KYAT.
HORSH.

OOPS!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR YOUR BATH.

SO CUTE...

SHE'S SO CUTE!

DWOG.
KYAT.
HORSH.

DWOG.
KYAT.
HORSH.

I TOOK HER TO THE BATHROOM, TOO. WE SHOULD BE OKAY TONIGHT.
BUT SHE ALWAYS SEEMS SO UNHAPPY GETTING A BATH...
ESPE-CIALLY WHEN I TAKE OFF HER CLOTHES.
GOOD NIGHT, LATINA.
GOOD NAIGHT, DALE.
I DON'T WANT TO REPORT TO MY CLIENT TOMOR-ROW...

If It's For My Daughter I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord.

I'LL TRY TO BE HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, LATINA--SO BE A GOOD GIRL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY MORNING...!

HURRY UP AND GO MAKE YOUR REPORT!!

YOU ALREADY EXPLAINED IT TO HER YESTERDAY!

<WORK, IMPORTANT. ME.>

I REALLY WISH I COULD TAKE YOU WITH ME.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO...

LATINA.

SAY, "HAVE A SAFE TRIP."

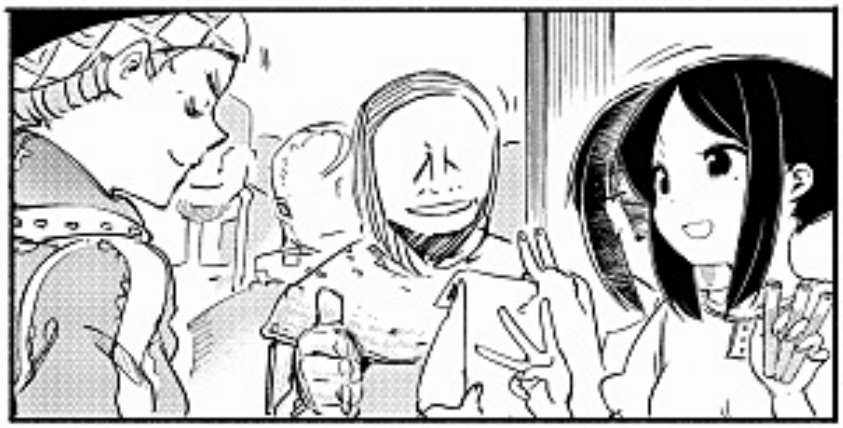
I'M OFF.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP.

?

OKAY, I'M OFF!
DALE, HAVE A SHAFE-TWIP?

3. Little Girl's First Time Staying at Home



OOPS...

CAREFUL, IT'S DANGER-OUS!
I'LL TAKE YOUR PLATE.
THANKS.
CHATTER
CHATTER

OUR MORNINGS ARE ALWAYS SO BUSY.

AND I'M MAKING BREAKFAST FOR ALL THESE HUNGRY ADVENTURERS.

RITA IS BUSY WORKING AS AN AKUDARU BRANCH OFFICIAL AND MANNING THE REGISTER...

GO TO THE MARKETPLACE IF YOU'RE GONNA HAGGLE!

YOU USED IT UP ALREADY?!

I'LL LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE FOR YOU, THEN.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE GONE FOR THREE DAYS? OKAY...

THANKS FOR THE EXACT CHANGE. HAVE A NICE DAY!

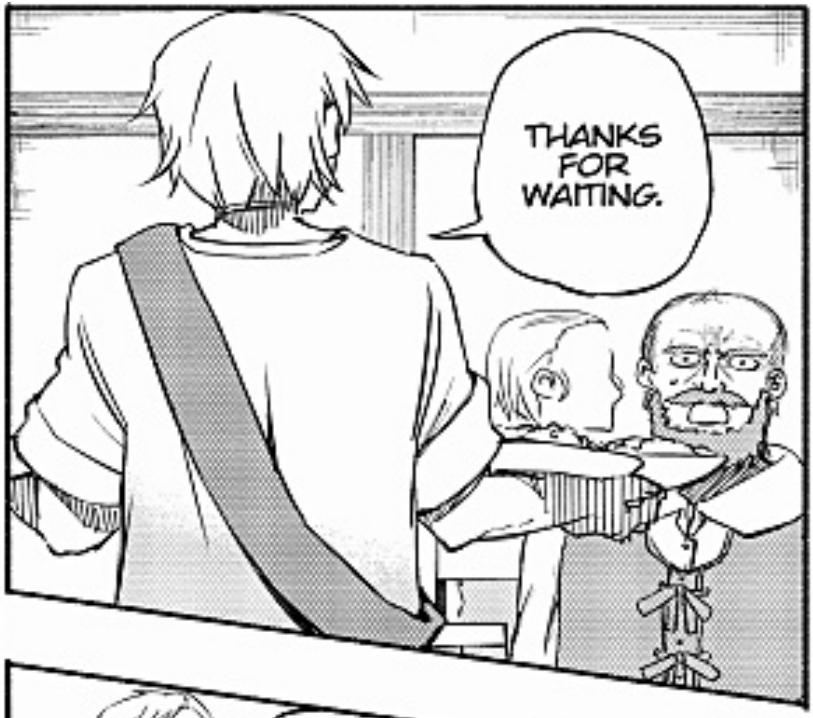
THE DISHES ARE ALL STACKED UP.

HM?

BUT SHE'S BEEN SO BUSY...

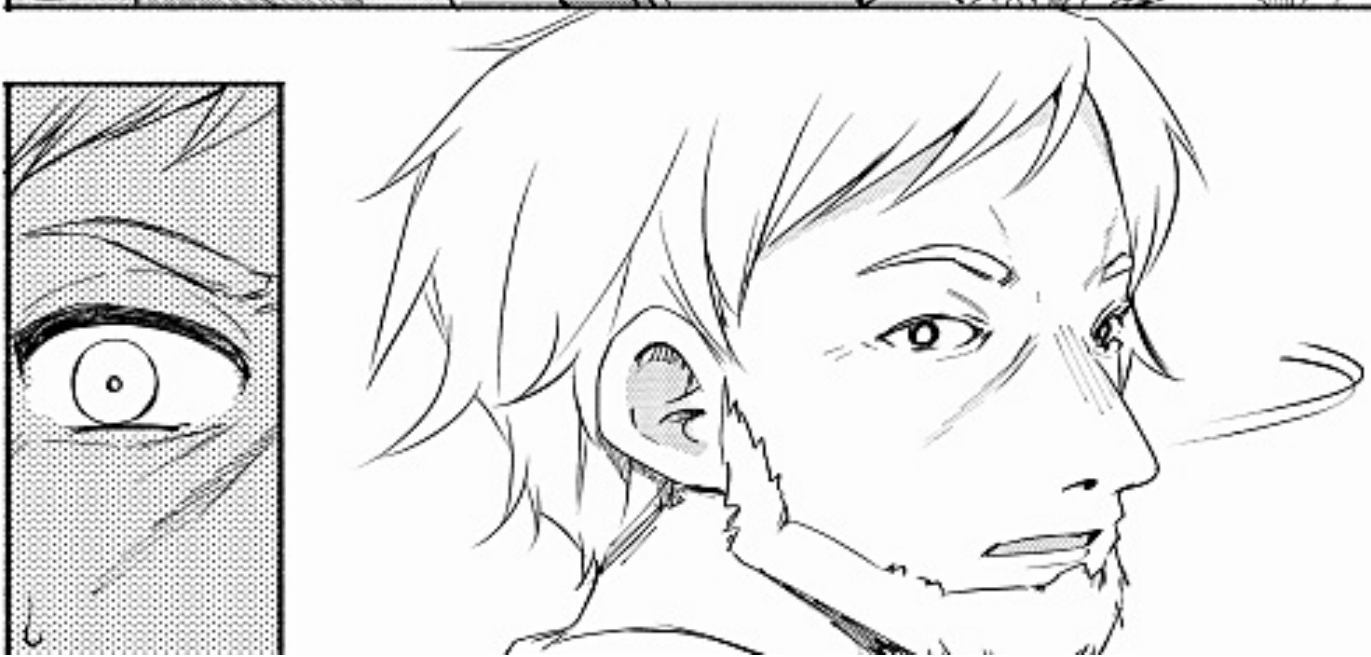
DID RITA COLLECT THEM?

YOU'VE HIRED QUITE A YOUNG WAITRESS HERE!


THANKS FOR WAITING.

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING THAT DUMB FACE FOR?

TAKE A LOOK.
WAITRESS? WE DIDN'T...



SIGH
PHEW...
?!
THERE.
SHWP...
!
SMILE
FLINCH
LATINA?
.....
MMPH! MMPH!

DROOP
WELL...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S KEEPING AN EYE ON THINGS, TOO.
DON'T TRIP!
TRY YOUR BEST!
IS THE LITTLE LADY ALL RIGHT?
FRET
FRET
THE GUESTS SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE WORRIED...
KWUU!
BOBBLE BOBBLE
IT'S OKAY!
YOU'RE BEING A BIG HELP!
TOUSLE

IN PREPARATION
FWAAAH...
RITA...
I'M GOING TO GO REPLENISH OUR STOCK.

HAVE A SHAFE-TWIP!

HAVE A SAFE TRIP.

KIDS ARE PRETTY GREAT, AFTER ALL.

RITA, HOW ABOUT WE MAKE THREE?!

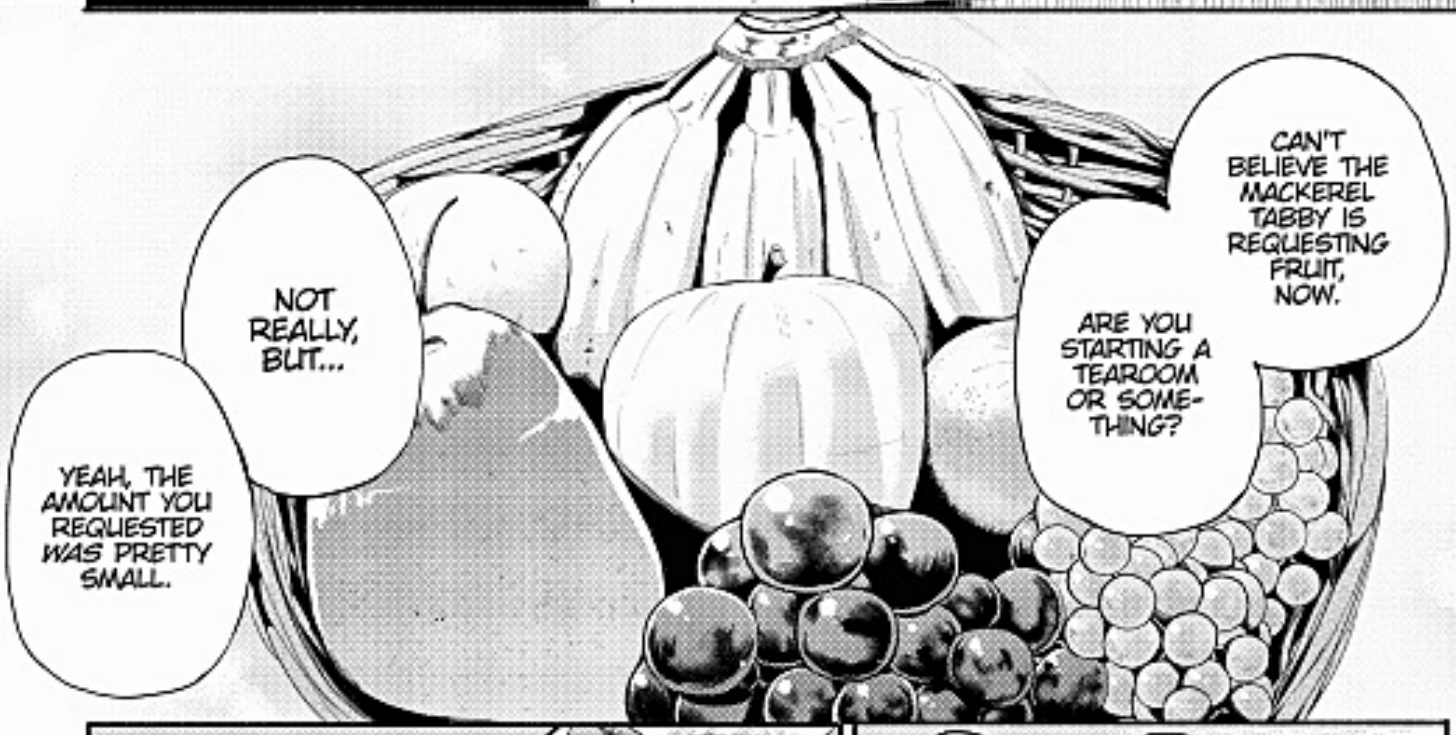
LET'S FOCUS ON MAKING ONE, FIRST.

JEEZ, YOU'RE SO SILLY.

.....

ドキッ THROB

BERRIES, PEACHES, AND GRAPES...
AND YOUR REGULAR ORDER, RIGHT?
PLEASE.

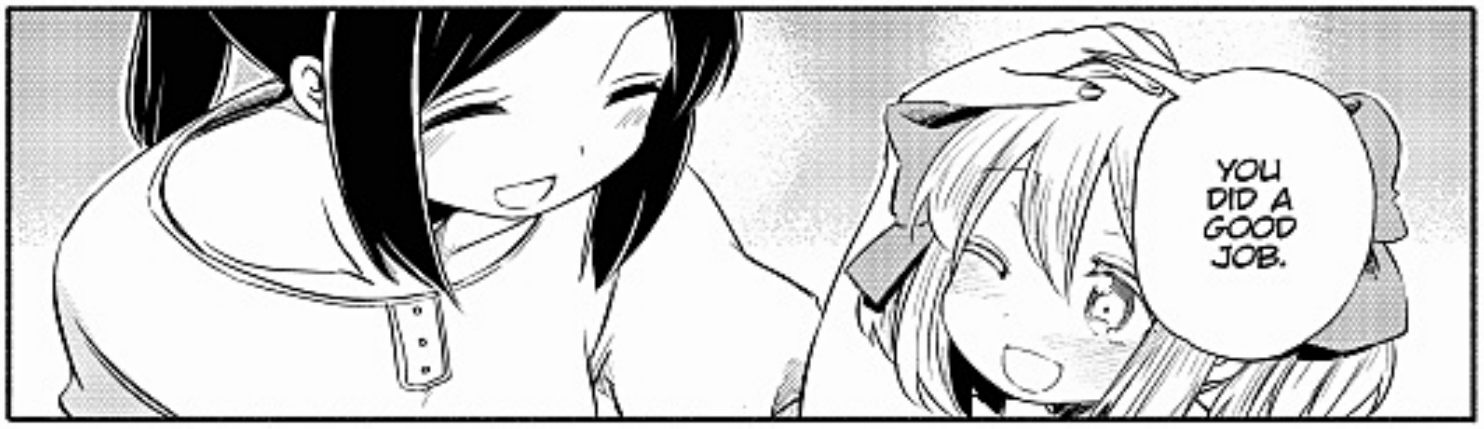

CAN'T BELIEVE THE MACKEREL TABBY IS REQUESTING FRUIT, NOW.
ARE YOU STARTING A TEAROOM OR SOME-THING?
NOT REALLY, BUT...
YEAH, THE AMOUNT YOU REQUESTED WAS PRETTY SMALL.

WHY ARE YOU GRINNING SO MUCH?!

SURE THING.
I THINK WE'LL BE ORDERING SOME REGULARLY FOR A WHILE.

GRIN
GRIN
FWUP

I'M HOME!
...
PA-CHUNK
WEL-COME HOOME.


YOU DID A GOOD JOB.

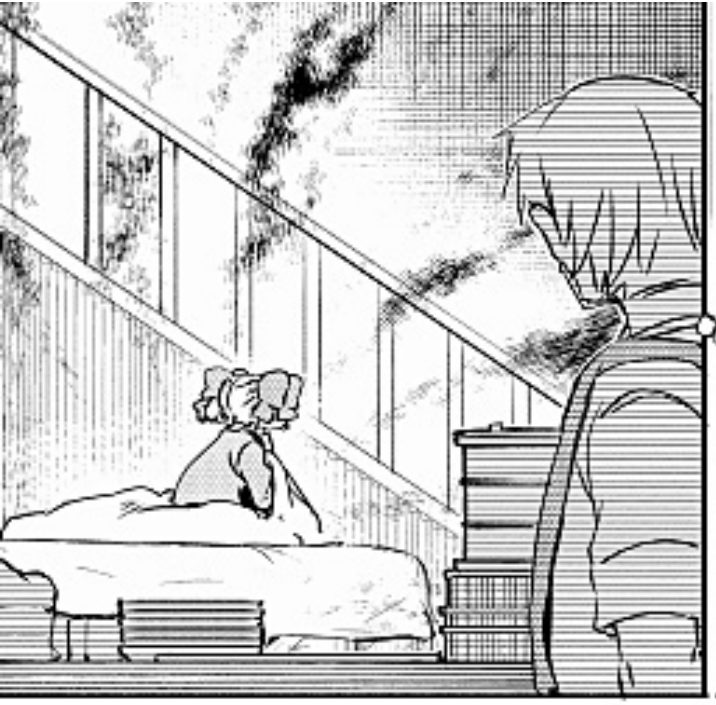
I'LL MAKE SOME BERRY JAM...

GRIN
GRIN

I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT HER STAYING HOME WITHOUT DALE...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
SHE READS HER PICTURE BOOKS QUIETLY.
SHE EATS POLITELY AND PUTS AWAY HER OWN PLATE.
SHE OBSERVES US CARE-FULLY.
AND SHE TRIES TO GO BACK TO HER ROOM WHEN SHE'S TIRED... THAT WAS A BIT OF A SCARE.

ZZZZZ...
SHE SHOULD DEMAND TO BE A BIT MORE SPOILED.
IT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BETTER IF SHE DEPENDED ON US MORE.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW OUR LANGUAGE, SO IT'S PROBABLY HARD.
AT HER AGE, SHE ALREADY UNDER-STANDS HER POSITION IN THE WORLD.
SHE WORRIES ABOUT HER SUR-ROUNDINGS TOO MUCH...
BLINK

BWUP
DALE?
GRIP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
FLINCH
LATINA, ARE YOU AWAKE?



SHE LOOKS LIKE A SCARED LITTLE ANIMAL.
NOT HIM.
?
WHO?

FWAAA

AAAH

FWAAH
BERRY JAM ON TOAST

よーしょ
UMPH

VICTORY OF THE SWEETS

LICK

AH HA HA!

SO GOOD YOU COULDN'T HELP LICKING YOUR FINGERS, HUH?!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
HAAH!

NOD NOD

HEY—
PA-CHONK
GREAK
OH, DALE.
!!
DOZE DOZE
TEK TEK TEK
TONK
LATINA, I'M H--!
SCOOP

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN LONELY...
LATINA...
WELCOME HOME!

GRIN
GRIN
I'M BACK, LATINA! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU FOR STAYING HOME, LIKE A GOOD GIRL!
SMILE
SMILE
CHATTER
CHATTER
RUB
RUB
SHADDUP!
WAH HA HA!
DALE, YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE LITTLE GIRLFRIEND THERE!
RUB
RUB

If It's For My Daughter I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

4. Little Girl Helps

SO, HOW WAS LATINA?
SHE WAS SURPRISINGLY QUIET.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT SHE FOUND THINGS TO DO, TOO!
SHE EVEN HELPED KENNETH OUT.
THAT'S AMAZ-ING...
BUT SEEING HOW SHE IS NOW...
I THINK YOU'RE REAL SPECIAL TO HER.

WELL, I AM HER GUARDIAN, AFTER ALL!!

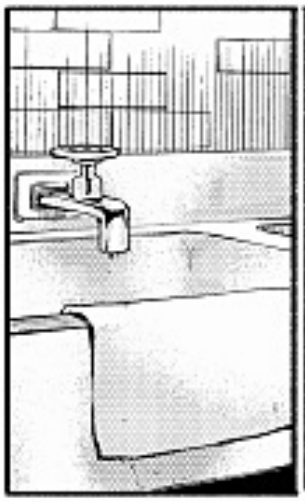
SNAP

GRIND

GRIND

GRIND

WHY WATCH IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE THAT?
IT PISSES ME OFF, BUT--!
I DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON LATINA'S GROWTH!
SHAKE SHAKE
PWAP
LATINA.
CLEANING FINISHED?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
PARENT AND CHILD... THEY LOOK LIKE PARENT AND CHILD ...!!!



YES!
HELP ME MAKE MASHED POTATOES FOR SUPPER.

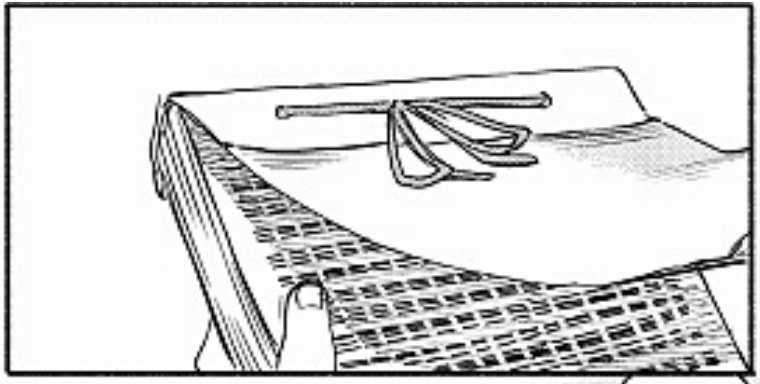
Little Red Riding Hood

READ BOOK.

DALE.
Little Red Riding Hood

GUN
WOLF
RED
GRANDMA
BIRD
HOUSE
FOREST
THEY SAY THAT CHILDREN GROW UP FAST, BUT THIS IS A BIT...

MOTHER CALLED LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD OVER AND SAID, "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD. GRANDMA IS SICK--"



WRITING PRACTICE?

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD REPLIED, "HELLO, MR. WOLF." THE WOLF GRINNED WIDELY AND ASKED HER...

SHE DOESN'T TALK ABOUT HERSELF MUCH.

Little Red Riding Hood

.....

SHE'S LEARNED HOW TO SPEAK, BUT...

THEN SHE WENT TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE...

AND OPENED THE DOOR...

Little Red Riding Hood

BASKET!

THAT BASU... BA... BAASK... BASK...

EVEN SO...

AND THEN THERE ARE HER HORNS...

SHE PROBABLY KNOWS THE MEANING OF THEM.

Little Red Riding Hood

SHE'LL NEED A NEW NOTEPAD SOON.
WE SHOULD GO TO THE GENERAL STORE.
AND EVERY-ONE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
HOW WAS IT, DALE?
PA-TUNK
YEAH, YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY GOOD AT READING ALOUD!
I SEE. I'M GLAD I CAN TALK WITH YOU, TOO...
LATINA IS HAPPY TO TALK WITH YOU.
I WORKED HARD.
LATINA. WANT TO TAKE A BREAK FROM WRITING AND GO ON A WALK TODAY?
LATINA WILL GO!

TREE!
CAT!
HORSE... AND SMALL HOUSE?
NO DOG...
NO DOG...
THAT'S A CAR-RIAGE.
CARRIAGE!

YEAH, WE'RE GOING TO BUY A NEW NOTEPAD FOR LATINA TO PRACTICE WRITING IN.
AFTER-NOON
GOOD AFTER-NOON.

OH, LITTLE LADY. OUT WITH DALE TODAY?
MR. JIL!

S*M*A*R*T!
IS THAT SO?
DOTING PARENT...
LATINA IS SO SMART, AFTER ALL!!!
SHE'S STILL PRACTICING THE LETTERS OF THE WESTERN CONTINENT, BUT I'M SURE SHE'LL PICK IT UP QUICK!
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU CAN WRITE AT YOUR AGE, LITTLE LADY?

MASH!
MASH!
LATINA'S GOING TO MAKE THE POTATOES!
CAN'T WAIT.

ARE YOU HELPING TODAY?

YOU WANT A DECK OF CARDS?
MR. JIL PLAYS WITH THOSE.
NO.

LATINA, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?

!
REALLY? OH, BUT...
THEY MIGHT BE GOOD FOR LEARNING NUMBERS...

CAT!
LATINA IS ALL RIGHT.
ARE YOU TIRED, LATINA?

WE'LL BE FINE FOR A WHILE WITH THIS MANY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
IT'S BRIGHT OUTSIDE!

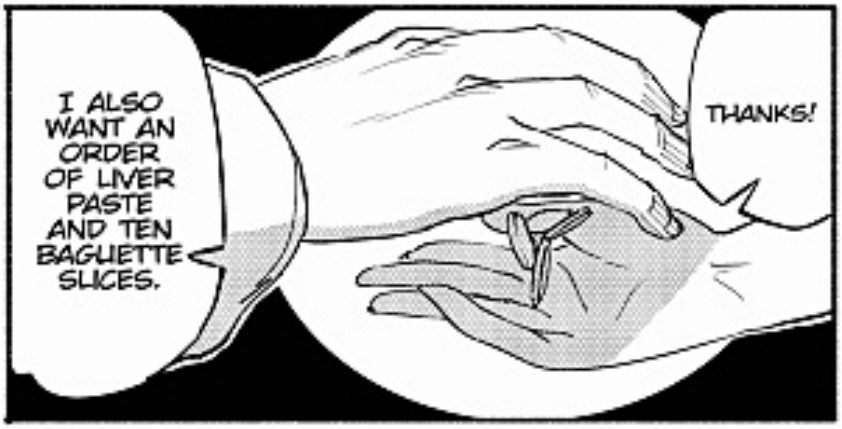
THE MACKEREL TABBY!
DOG!
SKY!
SUN-SET!
YES!
LATINA, COME OVER TO THE KITCHEN.
WE'RE HOME!
WORK HARD.
BYE BYE, DALE!
...

PEELING POTATOES

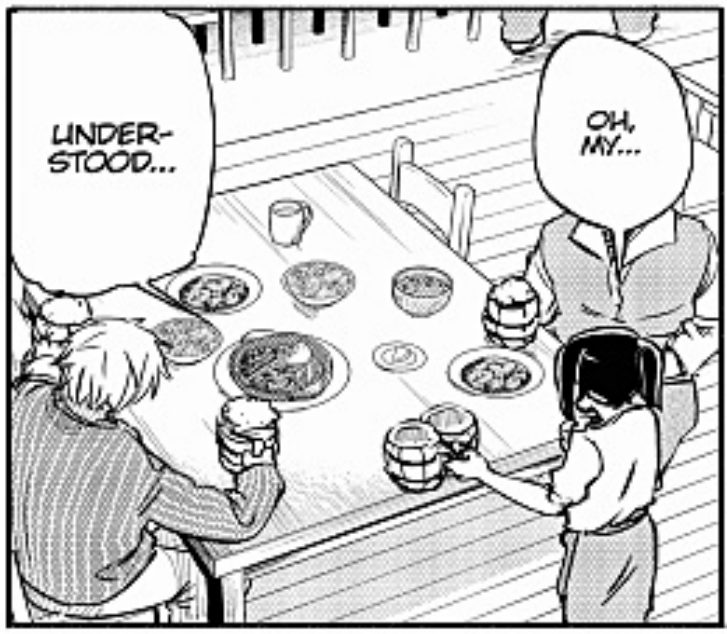
AH.
HERE YOU GO! THREE ALES.
TRUDGE-TRUDGE

SHOO! SHOO!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY. IN THE WAY!

SPARK
ALSO... MASHED POTATOES.
THREE HELPINGS. TAKE YOUR TIME.


I ALSO WANT AN ORDER OF LIVER PASTE AND TEN BAGUETTE SLICES.
THANKS!

YOU DID?!
I ORDERED SOME FOR YOU GUYS, TOO.
HEY, CAN YOU REALLY EAT THAT MUCH, JILVESTER?


UNDERSTOOD...
OH, MY...

SILENCE
SHAKE SHAKE
CHATTER
CHATTER
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
SHAKE SHAKE
SHWFF...

DALE, HAVE DINNER!!
HOOOAH! YOU DID IT, LITTLE LADY!!

LATINA MADE THE POTATOES TODAY.
EAT UP, DALE.
BULGE
A MOUN-TAIN...

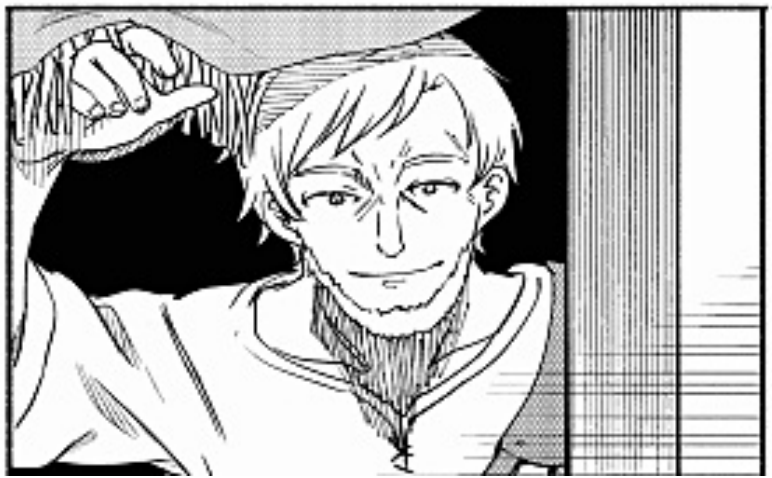
YOU WORKED HARD TODAY, LATINA.
SO CUTE.

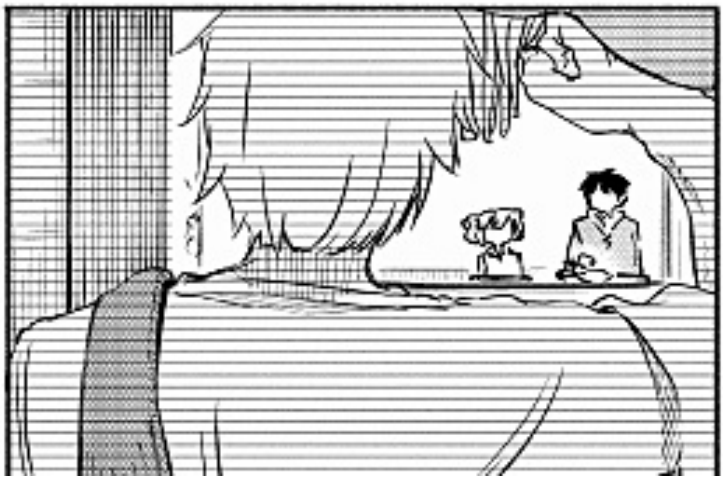
JILVESTER, YOU KNEW!
HEH.

OVER HERE, TOO!
AN ALE! ALSO, SOME MASHED POTA-TOES!!

NOM NOM NOM NOM

WOW--!
PROUD





Latina wants to make Dale food.
Can Latina help you, Kenneth?
HMM...
You want to learn how to cook?
Yeah. Latina wants to.

LATINA.
YOU'RE A GOOD COOK.
LIKE NOW, DEPENDING ON EACH OTHER...
EVEN A LITTLE BIT IS PRETTY NICE...

SURE THING.
KENNETH, WE NEED A LOT OF MASHED POTATOES.

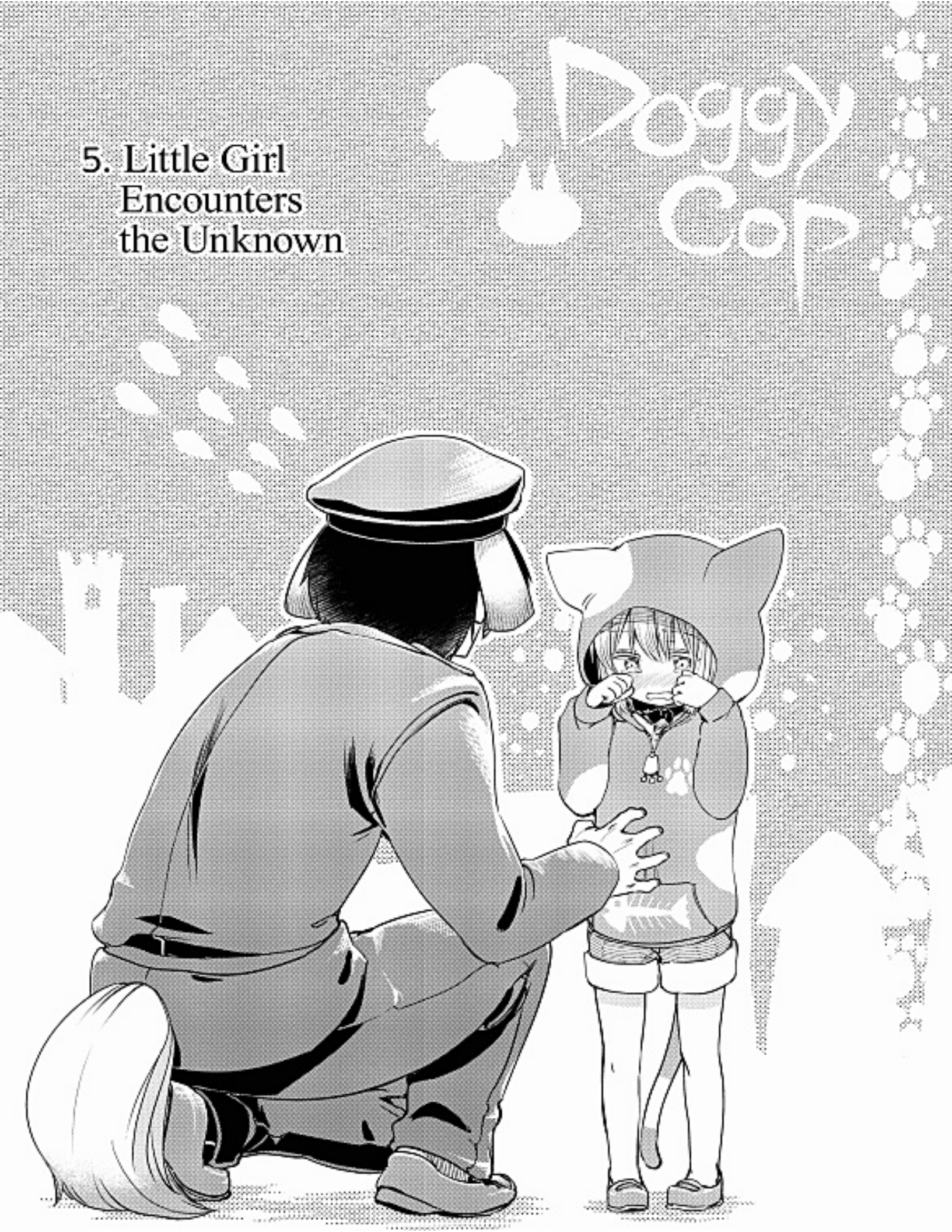
IT'S GOOD FOR HIM, TOO.

WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
LATINA'S LOST?!
WHAT SHOULD LATINA DO...?

If It's For My Daughter I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord.

LATINA'S LOST?!
SORRY-- I TOOK MY EYES OFF HER WHILE I WAS HAGGLING.
I LOOKED AROUND THE AREA, BUT...
GAAAAH!
UAAARGH!!
SEARCHING MAGIC!
WHY!
DIDN'T I!
LEARN IT WHEN I WAS STUDYING!!
APOLOGIZE, PAST SELF!
APOLOGIZE IMMEDIATELY TO LATINA!!
AFTER-THE-FACT
WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOK FOR HER FOR NOW?
THAT'S IT!
SLAP



5. Little Girl Encounters the Unknown

THE CITY ALREADY HAS LATINA'S DESCRIPTION, SINCE DALE HAD TO SUBMIT IT TO GAIN GUARDIAN-SHIP.

ダッシュ!
DASH!

ANYWAY, THAT EASTERN AREA HAS A LOW CRIME RATE...
AND ON TOP OF THAT...
THEY'D FIND HER BEFORE SOMEONE TRIED TO TAKE HER OUT OF THE CITY.
A LOT OF THE GUARDS AT THE GATES ARE OUR CUSTOM-ERS.

SHE MIGHT COME BACK HOME ON HER OWN.
SHE'S A SMART GIRL, THAT ONE.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SO, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN A BIT YOURSELF, KENNETH.

ALL RIGHT, BOYS.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY REQUEST!
A QUEST TO FIND LATINA!
ばっ
FWAP
Quest
THE REWARD FOR LOOKING IS TONIGHT'S DRINKING TAB!
IF YOU FIND HER, THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL REWARD!
WHETHER YOU FIND HER OR NOT...
YOU MUST RETURN BY DUSK!
Let's Go on a Quest!

SHWD

WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE BAD TO HAVE DALE OWE ME ONE...

AND IT'S A GOOD WAY TO PASS THE TIME.

I DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD QUESTS GOING ON RIGHT NOW.

CLATTER

CROWD CROWD...

I'M NOT REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE LITTLE LADY, BUT GETTING THE DRINK TAB PAID FOR WOULD BE NICE.

I SUDDENLY HAPPEN TO FEEL LIKE TAKING A LITTLE WALK 'ROUND THE EASTERN AREA.

CLAMOR CLAMOR

BFFT!

SORRY ABOUT THIS. THAT'D BE A HUGE HELP, THOUGH.

THE VARIOUS GRUMPY OLD MEN CASUALLY HEAD OUT, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

SHAKE SHAKE

PFFT!

WHAT'S WRONG, RITA?

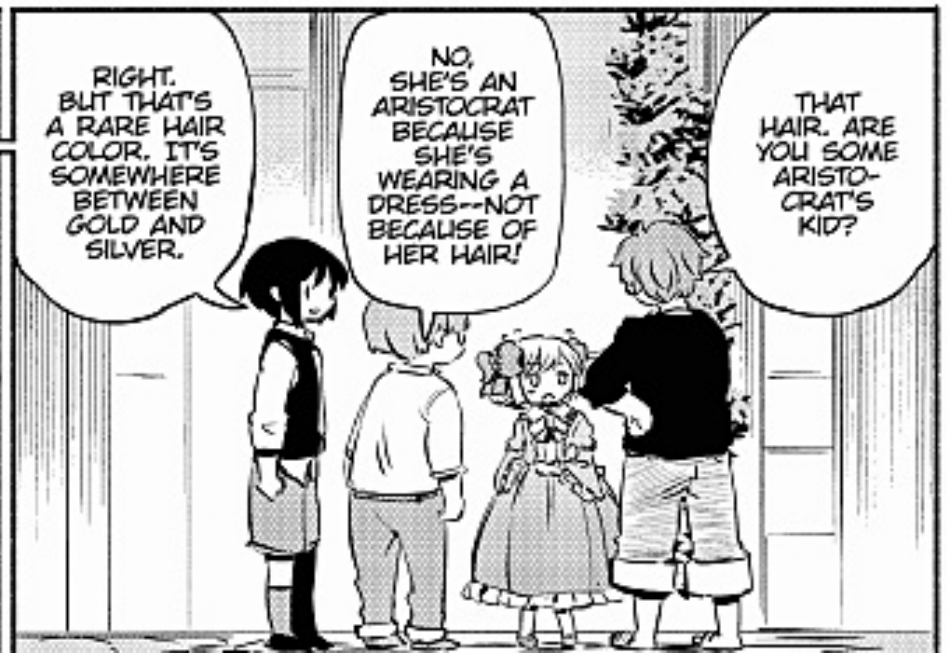
I-IT'S NOTHING...

WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?
I PROMISED THAT I WOULD STAY WITH KENNETH THE WHOLE TIME...
I WONDER IF DALE IS MAD.
I DON'T WANT THAT... I HAVE TO GET HOME...!
WHAT IF I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...?!

WHO'RE YOU?
WHERE... AM I?
Bakery Secret
HORSESHOE

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU AROUND HERE.

IF THIS KID MOVED IN AROUND HERE, WE'D HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT.


RIGHT. BUT THAT'S A RARE HAIR COLOR. IT'S SOMEWHERE BETWEEN GOLD AND SILVER.
NO, SHE'S AN ARISTOCRAT BECAUSE SHE'S WEARING A DRESS--NOT BECAUSE OF HER HAIR!
THAT HAIR. ARE YOU SOME ARISTO-CRAT'S KID?

SO, YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER ?!
FLINCH...!
WHY IS HE MAD?
HEY. WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANY-THING?
IS LATINA... STRANGE, SOME-HOW?
LATINA DOESN'T KNOW WHY HE'S MAD.
AH! HEY!!
TP TP

!!
ビクッ
JOLT
RUNNING AWAY IS SUSPICIOUS!
GRAB
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
MAYBE SHE'S A FOREIGNER?
<••! ••! ••••!>
WHAT'S SHE SAYING?
<••! ••••!>
TAK!
SU SU SU...
CHLOE.
BACK OFF...

WHEW!

A MISUNDER-STANDING! IT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!

WHOA! STOP, CHLOE!

WHACK

WHUMP

PONK

BONK

PONK

KRAK

HMPH! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS WERE BULLYING A LITTLE KID!!

THAT WAS DANGEROUS...

STOP.

?!

GASP!

HURTS? ALL RIGHT?

FIZZLE.....!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, CHLOE...

THEY'RE ALL RIGHT! A LITTLE SPIT ON THEIR WOUNDS WILL FIX THEM RIGHT UP!

CLENCH !!

IT WAS OUR FAULT FOR SCARING YOU...

HMPH!

SORRY.

LATINA COULDN'T REPLY PROPERLY.

じぼん DROOP

Heal the one who is wounded. *Healing Light!*

Light of heaven, grant this wish upon your name.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES.

JUST A LITTLE TIRED.

FWUMP

SHUU

?!

JOLT

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN MAGIC!

SHE'S REALLY AMAZING, BUT SO SMALL! WHO TAUGHT YOU?

WOW! A MAGIC USER!

CROWD

AMAZING? LATINA CAN ONLY DO SIMPLE HEALING MAGIC.

IS USING MAGIC AMAZ-ING?

INCH INCH

GRRR

THE ONLY OTHER PEOPLE ARE PROBABLY ADVEN-TURERS.

THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE AROUND HERE WHO CAN USE IT.

THEY WORK IN SHRINES, OR FOR LEADERS OF BIG BUSI-NESSES...

WHAT'S WRONG?

DALE.

LATINA IS LOST AND DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO GET HOME.

DALE IS AN ADVEN-TURER...

THAT'S WHY HE CAN USE MAGIC.

HEY!

OMITTED!

THOSE THREE... WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

I'M CHLOE.

SO, YOUR NAME IS LATINA.

LATINA

MY NAME IS MARCEL. NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'M ANTHONY.

I'M RUDOLF. CALL ME RUDY.

FROM THE SOUTH... A SHOP CALLED THE MACKEREL TABBY.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, LATINA?

IS IT AN ADVEN-TURER'S SHOP?

I WONDER IF IT'S *THAT* PLACE? THE SHOP WITH THE GREEN FLAG.

THERE AREN'T A LOT OF SHOPS IN THE SOUTH.

RWAR

MACKEREL TABBY?

!

ADVEN-TURERS!

YES.
LOTS OF ADVEN-TURERS VISIT THE SHOP.
WAIT A SECOND...
DISCUSS DISCUSS
THIS IS SOMETHING BEYOND OUR CONTROL!
BUT WE DON'T JUST WANT TO CHECK IT OUT.
CHATTER
BUT...MY PARENTS SAID ADVENTURERS ARE DANGEROUS.
CHATTER
THIS IS HELPING OTHERS.
HELPING OTHERS
VS
DANGER
好奇心
CURIOSITY

LATINA.
WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!
LET'S GO!
YEAH!
THANK YOU!

If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord.

6. Little Girl's "World" Expands a Little More

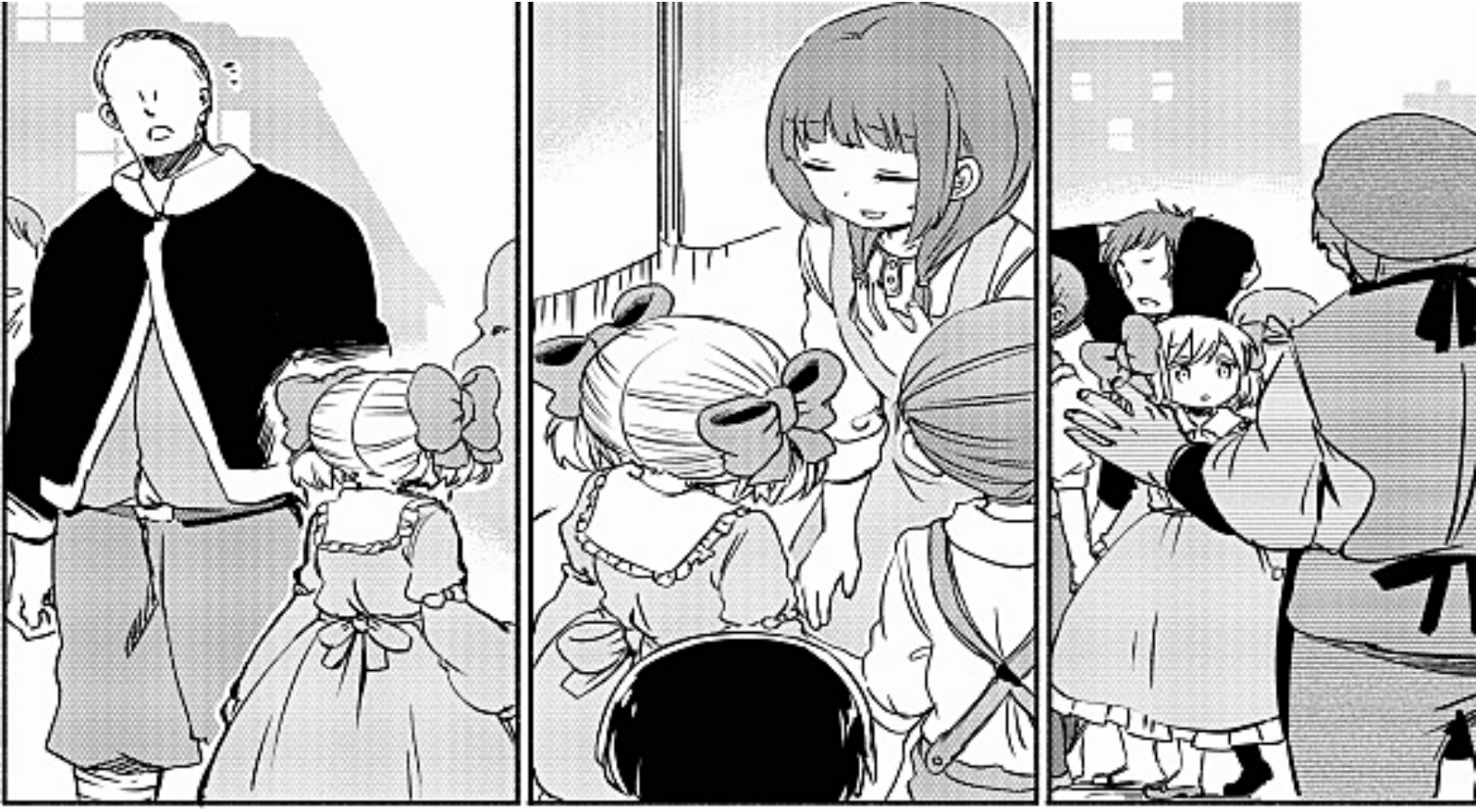
WANDER
YEAH.
ARE THE SOUTHERN SHOPS INTERESTING TO YOU?
HEY! AREN'T YOU THE LITTLE GIRL WHO WAS WITH KENNETH?
SHAKE
SHAKE
SQUEEZE
I'M SORRY...
THANK GOODNESS! HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
CLUNK
OH, NO. WELL...
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!
MISTER FROM THE VEGETABLE STAND!

W-WE'RE HELPING LATINA...
BY TAKING HER BACK HOME!

STARE...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE MACKEREL TABBY IS?
THERE ARE A LOT OF ADVENTURERS THERE...
BUT THEY AREN'T ANY PROBLEM.

NOD NOD
YUP. YUP.
I SEE... BE CAREFUL, THEN.
WE'LL BE FINE. WE'LL GO HOME RIGHT AFTER WE TAKE HER THERE.



KENNETH LOOKED FOR LATINA.
LATINA WENT TO ALL THEIR STORES WITH KENNETH.
ARE YOU FAMOUS?
YOU'RE KINDA... INCRED-IBLE.
EVERY-ONE'S BEEN STOPPING YOU.

AND LOOK, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
YEAH!
YOU'LL BE FINE THIS TIME. WE'RE HOLDING HANDS!

RITA!
SIGH...
FLUSTER FLUSTER...
TUP TUP TUP
C!Z

RITA. LATINA IS SORRY FOR WANDERING AWAY...
WHERE IS KENNETH?
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU. GO SHOW HIM YOU'RE OKAY.
YOU ALL ARE ...?

CLATTER

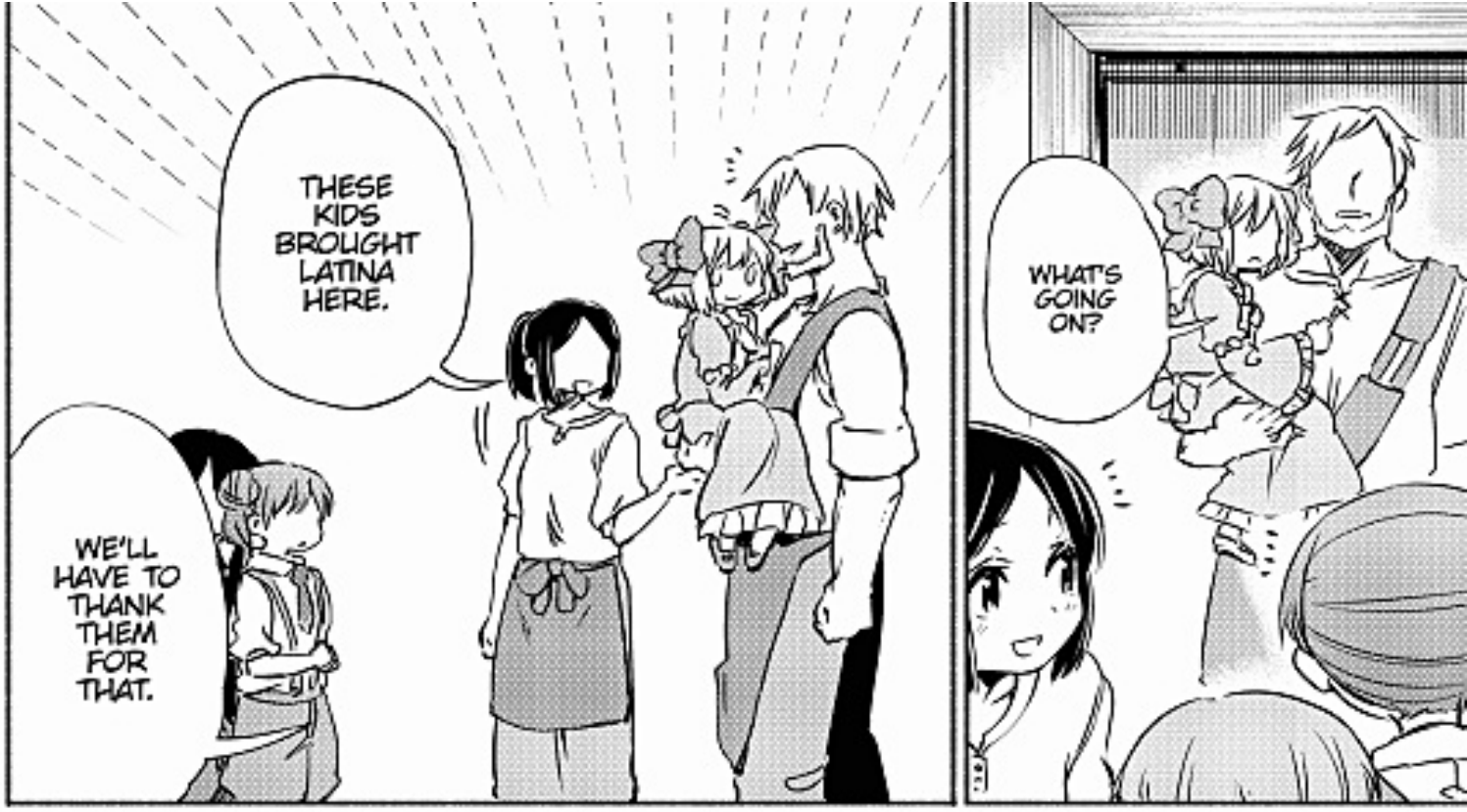
ガコッ!!
GONK

KENNETH.

SHOOT ....

I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!

LATINA IS SORRY...
FOR WANDERING AWAY.
LATINA DIDN'T KEEP HER PROMISE.


THESE KIDS BROUGHT LATINA HERE.
WE'LL HAVE TO THANK THEM FOR THAT.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

I SEE. YOU ALL BECAME LATINA'S FRIENDS!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP YOUR FRIENDS!

?

IT'S GOING TO BE DARK SOON...
BUT PLEASE COME PLAY WITH LATINA AGAIN!

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HER BACK HOME!
QUESTCLEAR

CHATTER
CHATTER
THUMBS-UP
LATINA IS SORRY FOR MAKING EVERYONE WORRY.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE, LITTLE LADY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BOW
.....
THANK YOU FOR SEARCHING FOR LATINA.

WHISPER WHISPER
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
WHISPER
WELL... EVERY-THING'S OKAY NOW.

ANY NEWS?!
HEAVE— HUFF! HEAVE— HUFF!
RITA!
BWAM
FLINCH
HUFF ...?
AH.
HUFF! HUFF!
LATINA!!
TA-DAA!

LATINA!!
NNGH!
LATINA IS...
HIC!
LATINA IS SORRY...
WHIMPER
.....
DRIP
REALLY SORRY!
?!
HIC!
THE PROMISE.
LATINA DIDN'T KEEP IT...
HALL!
DRIP DRIP
SORRY!
GH!

ARE YOU MAD?
LATINA WAS BAD.
I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!
I'M NOT MAD! AND I WON'T GET MAD!
LATINA THOUGHT MAY-BE...
SHE COULDN'T GET HOME.
WAS SCARED.
LATINA WAS...
BUT...
LATINA WAS BAD!
TO BE MAD.
IT'S OKAY...
FLUSTER FLUSTER...
SHAKE
SHAKE

DALE.
WANT TO BE ALONE.
EVER AGAIN.
LATINA DOESN'T...
LATINA WANTS TO STAY...
TOGETHER WITH DALE...!
LATINA...
LATINA IS OKAY IF YOU GET MAD.

ZZZ.....
GRIN GRIN GRIN GRIN GRIN GRIN GRIN GRIN
PHEW!
GRRR...
"BE QUIET OR THE LITTLE LADY WILL WAKE UP" FACE.

SEE YOU LATER!
YEAH!
BYE-BYE!

CHLOE CALLED LATINA A "FRIEND."
DALE, WHAT DOES "FRIEND" MEAN?

WELCOME HOME, LATINA!
I'M HOME, DALE!

.....
?

LATINA DOESN'T KNOW WHAT "FRIEND" REALLY MEANS.
HMM...

PLAY TOGETHER? LIKE FAMILY?!

HAVEN'T YOU EVER PLAYED WITH CHILDREN YOUR AGE BEFORE?
HOW DO I AVOID THIS LAND-MINE...?

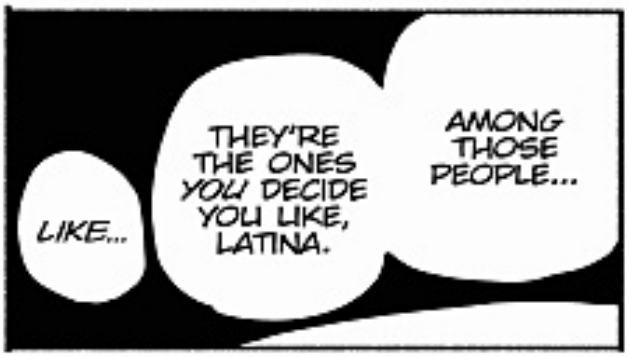
IS THAT WHAT SHE MEANS?
HMM, BECAUSE THE BIRTHRATE WAS SO LOW THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER CHIL-DREN...

LATINA... ONLY HAD FAMILY AND ADULTS AROUND HER.
WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN FROM OTHER FAMILIES?
NO... NOT FAMILY.
ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

ADULTS ARE DIFFERENT!
THEY'RE NOT YOUR FAMILY... AND THEY'RE USUALLY AROUND YOUR AGE.
AHH.

ALL OF YOU ARE FRIENDS!
LET'S SEE. FRIENDS ARE...
EVERYONE YOU PLAY WITH AND TALK TO A LOT, BUT WHO AREN'T YOUR FAMILY... UM...

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THEM...
THEN YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THEM.
WOOOOW!


AMONG THOSE PEOPLE...
THEY'RE THE ONES YOU DECIDE YOU LIKE, LATINA.
LIKE...

CHLOE LIKES LATINA?
YEAH.

トモダチ
FRIEND
LATINA REALLY LIKES CHLOE!
SHE'S HAPPY...TO BE HER FRIEND!
I SEE.
AHH.
WHAT KINDS OF PEOPLE DID YOU SPEND YOUR TIME WITH BEFORE, LATINA?
HM... THAT MAKES SENSE.
LET ME BORROW THIS.
OKAY.
LATINA DOESN'T REALLY KNOW. HOW SHOULD SHE SAY IT?

LATINA HAS NO BROTHERS OR SISTERS.
FAMILY... DID YOU HAVE BROTHERS OR SISTERS?
FATHER
MOTHER
YOUNGER GIRL
YOUNGER BOY
LATINA
OLDER GIRL
OLDER BOY
LITTLE SISTER
LITTLE BROTHER
OLDER SISTER
BROTHERS
SISTERS
LATINA WAS WITH HER PARENTS A LOT.
LATINA DOESN'T KNOW.
SHE DIDN'T MEET OTHER PEOPLE OR TALK TO THEM.
WHAT KINDS OF ADULTS WERE AROUND YOU?

I SHOULD END THE CONVER-SATION HERE...
.....
THAT'S WHY...
THAT SHE GETS TO BE WITH DALE A LOT.
LATINA IS HAPPY...

LATINA LIKES CHLOE, BUT...

SHE LIKES DALE A LOT, LOT MORE!

YES!

LATINA, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP SOON.

!

HEH HEH...

BYE, DALE!

まくっ ROLL

IF THAT WAS HER WAY OF CHANGING THE SUBJECT, SHE'LL BE A TOUGH ONE TO DEAL WITH WHEN SHE GROWS UP.

BUT I WOULDN'T MIND BEING TRICKED BY AN EVIL LITTLE LADY LIKE LATINA.

AND THAT IS WHAT DALE THOUGHT.

SMILE

If It's For My Daughter I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

SHORT STORY

CHIROLU

Little Girl Helps New Adventurers a Bit

The city of Kreutz, in the Kingdom of Laband, is so prosperous that it is often called the second capital city. This city, which lies in a vital area between the port and the royal capital, is a gathering place for rowdy adventurers who fight the magical beasts that live in the southern region.

Kreutz's financial growth was greatly boosted by the influx of foreign merchants flocking to the city. It used these funds to post bounties, protecting themselves from the threat of magical beasts. Even now, travelers continue to be the framework of this city. This fact merged with the views of Laband Kingdom's primary deity of discipline, the Red Deity, to create a new culture unique to the city.

A city like Kreutz never failed to attract people with get-rich-quick schemes or hopes to turn their lives around.

"Whoa...!"

"Incredible..."

The two young men looking up in amazement at the grand walls that protected the city were just such people.

"It's even bigger than the people back in the village said it would be..."

"There's a line over there. Just like we heard. Let's go!"

The two men were sons of farmers from a nearby region. For the past few decades, the reign of the King had been stable in Laband, especially the area around the royal capital. The watchful eyes of the kingdom ensured that the nearby domains didn't put the citizens under a heavy tax burden. However, the number of sons who could inherit land from their parents was limited. Families had many children in order to gain more manpower for the fields, but second and third sons had difficulty finding marriage prospects.

In an effort to escape that reality, the two young men had left their homes and traveled to Kreutz to become adventurers.

Kreutz, just like its name, was a city in the form of a misshapen cross.

The residence of the feudal lord was in its center and different sections of the city spread from there to the east, west, south, and north. To enter Kreutz, a traveler had to enter through one of the gates stationed in each direction. The two young men were currently at the eastern gate, the gate that was closest to their hometown.

They were lined up with various peddlers and people with loaded carts. It was easy to tell that most of them were merchants. It seemed like the guards were checking the identities of everyone who wanted passage. However, the guards let many people through without even a glance at the paperwork, perhaps because they recognized those seeking entry.

"Hey."

The guard called out to the two men as soon as they

reached the front of the line, making both of them jump. Each hastily pulled out coins for passage—as they had been instructed to do by a merchant passing through their village—and presented them to the guard.

The guard looked them over quickly and gave a big sigh. A worn-out long sword in need of maintenance and a large staff in only a slightly-less-sorry state were better than nothing at all. He knew immediately from their clothes that they were from farming families. They wore the basic equipment of any new adventurer.

"If you plan on finding work in this city, look for a shop with a green flag in the south quadrant. Don't accept sweet-sounding deals unless you want to be conned."

The guard gave them a word of advice because he had seen what happened to many people who "wanted to be an adventurer" since taking this job. Only a small handful of people attained success. He didn't want to let these young men step onto the wrong path.

After watching them head toward the south as he had directed, he mumbled to himself, "That little girl is at that shop... They'll treat you right." Then, he turned back to face the line of people.

The stalls that lined the streets sold things the two men had never seen before, and it was more crowded than the annual festival that was held in their village. As they walked through the eastern quadrant, known as the business district, and entered the southern quadrant, they felt a sudden change of atmosphere.

The young men came to a stop, startled by the people walking around armed with swords and wearing weathered armor. However, none of the normal citizens batted an eye at

the sight. Little did the young men know, but the southern quadrant was considered the most significant area of Kreutz. It was both the housing district for commoners and an area that provided various amenities for travelers.

There were high-class inns to accommodate travelers of rank, with rooms that had special magical locks, as well as cheap lodgings where one could share a room with a complete stranger. There were restaurants and bars, too--both ones a girl could go to without any worry, and others where powdered females drew men in. This quadrant was filled with many mysterious, new things, even more than the eastern quadrant.

The young men's curiosity shifted into anxiety, and they huddled together as they looked for the shop in question.

"Green flag..."

They found themselves in front of a bar facing the main road.

Hanging from the entrance was a sign that had a strangely dressed mackerel tabby made of wrought iron on it, and a green flag embroidered with a winged horse.

"<Dancing Mackerel Tabby>...?"

As they spoke, the two of them peeked into the shop and then quickly took a few steps back in fear.

"Wh-wh-wha..."

"No way... We have to go into a place like this...?"

The bar was full of the faces of men who obviously specialized in violent acts. Even though it was the middle of the day, many were drinking and playing cards. Even meeting their eyes when the two had quickly glanced in had been enough to send a chill down their spines. It felt like they might be scowled to death.

Suddenly, the idea of finding work in a field frequented by

people with faces like those inside—people often considered to be rogues—sounded a lot less appealing. Even so, they couldn't just stand in front of the entrance forever. They began to feel like the passersby were mocking their hesitation. And so, as subtly as they could, the two men quietly entered.

Everyone's eyes immediately focused on them, making their hearts stop.

"Uh, wh-wh...?"

"U-um..."

They looked like beginners, and the people of the "Mackerel Tabby" did not show them kind expressions. If they couldn't withstand a harsh glare, they certainly weren't ready to handle being adventurers.

"Hah?"

"Heek!"

"We're very sorry!"

Boys who trembled at mere looks were dismissed out of hand. Kids such as the ones who'd just walk in needed to be discouraged before they got ideas—it would be best if they just went back home. With a simple look, the regulars made their intentions clear and their stares grew colder.

Suddenly, the young men heard an innocent, young voice.

"Welcome."

The tense atmosphere of the room changed in an instant.

"You are a new customer. Welcome."

It took the two young men a moment to find the source of the voice. They lowered their gaze down toward the floor and realized that a little girl was looking up at them. Her platinum hair was tied up in pigtails with a ribbon on each side, her bright gray eyes shone, and she had the sweetest face they had ever seen. The moment their eyes met hers, she smiled and

their shoulders relaxed.

"Are you adventurer customers? Did you come to ask for work?" She tilted her head to one side, speaking with unsteady words.

"Little lady, you can tell that it's their first time?" asked an elderly man. He bore such a startling face that the two men gasped. The young girl turned and toddled over to the table where he was sitting.

"Latina remembers every customer she meets," she said.

"Even if it's just once?"

"Yeah," the little girl said. "Even once, Latina would probably know. But Latina doesn't know the customers that are here when she isn't here."

"Well, amazing as you are, little lady, I suppose even you couldn't know that."

The men burst into laughter, lightening the mood. It was such a change for the two young men; they felt like it had actually become a little easier to breathe.

The little girl returned to the two travelers and smiled sweetly. "Latina can explain the Mackerel Tabby to you."

She had watched the landlady of the shop, Rita, explain the process to newcomers many times and had remembered everything. While the two young men didn't know that, they instinctively knew that this little girl was their ally in this place. They nodded earnestly. The little girl smiled happily and puffed her chest with pride.

Her skirt fluttered as she made a half turn and made her way to the bulletin board near the entrance of the shop. She pointed at it with a small finger. "Um, the jobs from the people in the city are posted here."

"From the people of the city...?"

"When the people of the city have a problem, they come to us to ask for help."

The two men looked at the bulletin board and saw that there were all sorts of requests, from finding a lost item to being a bodyguard, from here to the next town over. Most of the jobs for adventurers were duller than expected. There were many requests for package carriers.

"The temple of the Green Deity posts their notices here, too."

Among the flyers on the bulletin board were ones with the seal of the Green Deity. Latina pointed them out and stopped. After some thought, her face brightened, and she continued her explanation.

"The temple puts up wanted posters and warns us about dangerous things. They put a stamp on it."

The Seven-Colored Gods were the deities, the seven pillars, of the world, and each held the name of a color. The Temple of the Green Deity, the god of information and safe travel, collected and stored all sorts of information. Like the Dancing Mackerel Tabby, shops that hung a flag with the seal of the Green Deity were officially sanctioned information posts.

"That's amazing, little lady. You remembered all that?"

It seemed the old men in the bar had listened to her determined explanation more earnestly than the two newcomers.

She smiled happily at the compliment. "Did Latina do a good job?"

A group at one table clapped heartily at her performance. "Yeah. Good job. Good job!" They were like old men doting on their granddaughter. Indeed, even if they had

grandchildren of their own, it would be hard to imagine that they could possibly be cuter than this little girl.

"Mr. Jil."

"Hm? What is it, little lady?"

"Latina doesn't know everything. So, will you teach them for her? Please?"

"Ah...ahh..."

The old man the little girl called "Mr. Jil" scratched his head a bit and made a troubled face. The adventurer Jilvester Delius was not only well known in this country, but in many of the neighboring ones, as well. Though he was practically in retirement, he was still respected, and other adventurers often asked him for advice.

The little girl had no idea what he had done in the past. However, she knew that he was someone she could ask for help when she "wasn't sure what to do." The old man, for his part, wanted to live up to the expectations of their little poster child.

Indeed, all the older men there wanted to show their good side in front of this little girl. If they did that, the little girl would always look up to them with innocent admiration and say "wow" with complete honesty. It was a reward more valuable than anything else.

"Guess it can't be helped..."

Jilvester turned to glare at the young men, a severe expression on his face. The two stood up straight.

"If you really want to become adventurers...I'll introduce you to someone who can take care of you. You guys sure you're serious about this?"

"Yes!"

"Please!"

As Latina watched them respond instinctively, she smiled with a happy heart as her platinum hair swayed gently.

* * *

"Hey, Kenneth."

Dale removed his trademark coat made of magical beast hide and hung it on a chair as he spoke to Kenneth, the landlord of the Dancing Mackerel Tabby—and a man who was like a big brother to him.

"What is it?"

"Hasn't the number of young adventurers in here increased lately?"

Dale himself wasn't much older than the "youngsters" and "beginners," but he had accomplished a great deal since leaving his homeland at the age of fifteen. His experience had far surpassed these "youngsters" of whom he spoke.

"It's true, they have increased."

Some people entered the shop to confirm a client's information on the bulletin board and then left. Others, after collecting their small earnings, bought the cheapest menu item in the bar, which was known for its affordable prices, in celebration. Among these people, Kenneth had begun to see the younger generation pop up here and there.

The shop had many regulars who were veteran adventurers. Because of that, the bar itself gave off a unique atmosphere that made it difficult for beginners to stay for long. That was how it had "always been" in this place.

"Well, beginners should use legitimate places like us because of the safety we provide. It isn't a bad change."

"I suppose you're right about that."

Many pubs without the flag of Akudaru, the Green Deity, tried to give adventurers work. However, those jobs were far more likely to be of an illegitimate nature. Naïve adventurers from the country quickly found themselves caught up with criminals and veered from the honest path.

Since they knew that all too well, Dale and Kenneth didn't feel like the change was a bad one.

"Dale!"

As soon as he heard her voice, Dale's face went pathetically slack. He turned quickly and gave the little girl a hug with open arms.

"Welcome home, Latina! Did you go play with your friends?"

"Yep! Also, welcome home from work!"

"Yeah. I'm home, too!"

Dale paid no heed to his surroundings as he squeezed her with an expression of pure happiness, but Kenneth didn't miss it. A young adventurer bowed his head slightly toward her as the others watched her with warm expressions.

I bet she's up to something we aren't aware of, Kenneth thought to himself, knowing that—whatever she was doing—it was surely a good thing. He had no doubt that her place as their poster child would only continue to grow.

COMICALIZING
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF THE FIRST VOLUME!!
KAGE

Afterword

NICE TO MEET YOU--OR NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! MY NAME IS HOTA.

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE MANGA VERSION OF *IF IT'S FOR MY DAUGHTER, I'D EVEN DEFEAT A DEMON LORD.*

I HOPE I WAS ABLE TO MAKE HER EVEN CUTER THAN SHE IS IN THE NOVEL--EVEN IF JUST A LITTLE!

I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN IN THE SECOND VOLUME.

If It's For My Daughter I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord

I'm Peach Kid!
I'll give you kibi dumplings!

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

If It's For My Daughter, I'd Even Defeat a Demon Lord vol. 1

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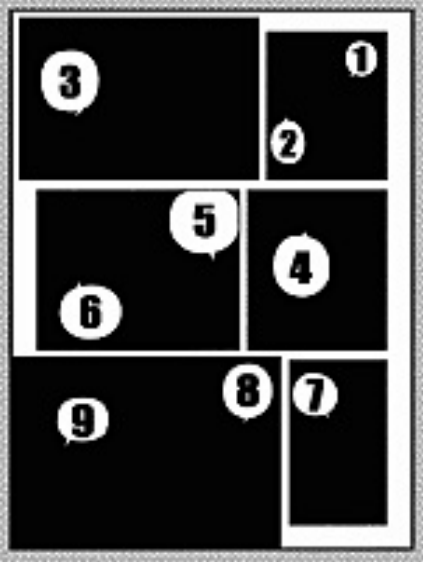
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



"D" is for Demon Girl

While on a job, Dale—a young but accomplished adventurer—comes across a little demon girl all alone in the forest. Dale can't bear to leave her there to die, so instead, he takes her home! Demon or not, Latina is beyond adorable, and it is not long before he finds himself head over heels with being her guardian. Can Dale handle the trials and tribulations of childcare and being an adventurer?

TEEN

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